

03500.016074



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
:)
NOBUATSU SASANUMA, et al.)
:)
Application No.: 10/026,718)
:)
Filed: December 27, 2001)
:)
For: IMAGE RATIO MEASURING)
METHOD FOR IMAGE)
FORMING APPARATUS)

Group Art Unit: 2621

April 1, 2004

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Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 5,416,613
Japan 2000-162931
Japan 11-184336

These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above-identified U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report from the European Patent Office, which is dated March 4, 2004, is enclosed.

English-language abstracts for each of the cited Japanese documents are enclosed and are believed to provide an explanation of relevance for these references.

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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